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imagery analysis report

Non-Soviet Warsaw Pact Special-Purpose Airborne Forces (S)

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NON-SOVIET WARSAW PACT SPECIAL-PURPOSE AIRBORNE FORCES (S)

INTRODUCTION

1. (S/WN) This report discusses non-Soviet Warsaw Pact (NSWP) Special-Purpose Airborne Forces and lists the imagery signatures used to identify these special-purpose forces (SPF). It also lists and discusses known NSWP units and their locations (Figure 1 and Table 1). Collateral information has been used to obtain unit missions and designators and to support imagery-derived information.

2. (S/WN) This report includes seven annotated photographs, one map, and one table.

DISCUSSION

3. All non-Soviet Warsaw Pact countries have specialized airborne units that are to attack, paralyze, and disrupt military/civilian targets in the enemy's (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) rear areas. Warsaw Pact (WP) ground forces have established SPFs because of the following reasons:[1] 25X1

- the Soviet's and the WP countries' success in partisan warfare during World War II;
- the WP countries' belief that battles must be fought in the enemy's rear areas as well as in the forward edge of the battle area;
- the WP countries' belief that the next war will be fought in Western Europe and using Soviet and/or other WP partisans is not feasible; and
- the WP countries' belief that there is a need to organize and control a partisan movement that can operate covertly against the enemy's rear areas.

4. The missions for the SPF units include: 25X1

- eliminating the enemy's nuclear weapons and storage areas;
- destroying or paralyzing the enemy's command and control network and supply and traffic installations;
- disrupting the enemy's supply and troop movements;
- conducting pathfinder activities;
- assassinating and/or kidnapping the enemy's political and military leaders;
- employing terrorist activities; and
- building up and supporting indoctrination and possibly commanding partisan activities.[1]

5. SPF units are divided into teams. The number of men on each team (depending on its mission) can vary from two to 12. The method of deployment of these teams depends on the particular scenario in which they are to operate and on the most expedient, available transportation.[1,2] The teams, however, are often deployed by air or sea since all the members are parachute qualified and many are scuba qualified. 25X1

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Poland

8. (S/WN) The Polish People's Army (PPA) has a reconnaissance-sabotage (recon-sabo) battalion at Dziwnow (Figure 3) and two recon-sabo companies (one at Bydgoszcz and one at Boleslawiec).[4] Evidence indicates that the recon-sabo battalion at Dziwnow is subordinate to the 6th Airborne Division.[2] This division, which is headquartered in Krakow, has missions similar to those of the recon-sabo units.[5]

Czechoslovakia

9. (S/WN) The 22nd Airborne Regiment at Prostejov[6] (Figure 4) is subordinate to the MND. 25X1

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Hungary

10. (S/WN) The 37th Airborne Reconnaissance Battalion in Szolnok is subordinate to the MND.[8,9] In addition, each division has a reconnaissance battalion with an airborne reconnaissance company

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(Figures 5 and 6). This company has the mission of conducting recon-sabo operations behind enemy lines.[8,10] NPIC has identified the 37th Airborne Battalion and four airborne reconnaissance companies within the Hungarian Army.

Romania

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Bulgaria

12. (S/WN) NPIC has identified a Bulgarian airborne regiment at Plovdiv (Figure 8) and small Bulgarian airborne units at Pleven and Musachevo.

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Table 1.
NSWP Airborne Units
This table in its entirety is classified SECRET/WNINTEL

Country	Unit/Subordination	Location
		25X1
Poland	6th Airborne Division/Ministry of National Defense	Krakow
	10th Airborne Battalion	Oswiecim Army Bks W Bank Sola R
		25X1
	16th Airborne Battalion	Krakow Army Bks 004
		25X1
	18th Airborne Battalion	Bielsko Biala Army Bks Komandosy 001
		25X1
	Unid Airborne Battalion	Niepolomice Abn Bks 001
		25X1
	1st Recon-Sabo Battalion	Dziwnow Army Bks 002
		25X1
	62nd Recon-Sabo Company/Silesian Military District	Boleslawiec Army Bks S 001/002
		25X1
	Unid Recon-Sabo Company/Pomeranian Military District	Bydgoszcz 001/004/PMD 4th Sig Regt
		25X1
Czechoslovakia	22nd Airborne Regt/Ministry of National Defense	Prostejov Army Bks 002
		25X1
Hungary	37th Airborne Reconnaissance Battalion/ Ministry of National Defense	Szolnok Army Bks Gabor Aron 003
		25X1
	Unid Airborne Company	Vezsprem Airfield
		25X1
	Unid Airborne Company/42nd Reconnaissance Battalion/8th Motorized Rifle Division	Szombathely Army Bks 009
		25X1
	Unid Airborne Company/Unid Reconnaissance Battalion/11th Tank Division	Gyor Army Bks Dobi Istvan 025
		25X1
	Unid Airborne Company/Unid Reconnaissance Battalion/9th Motorized Rifle Division	Lenti Army Bks Zaida 001
		25X1
Romania	161st Parachute Regt/Ministry of National Defense	Buzau Army Bks 006
		25X1
Bulgaria	Unid Airborne Regt/Ministry of National Defense	Plovdiv Army Bks 002 and 013
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	Unid Airborne Unit	Musachevo Army Bks 001
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	Unid Airborne Unit	Pleven Army Bks South 001
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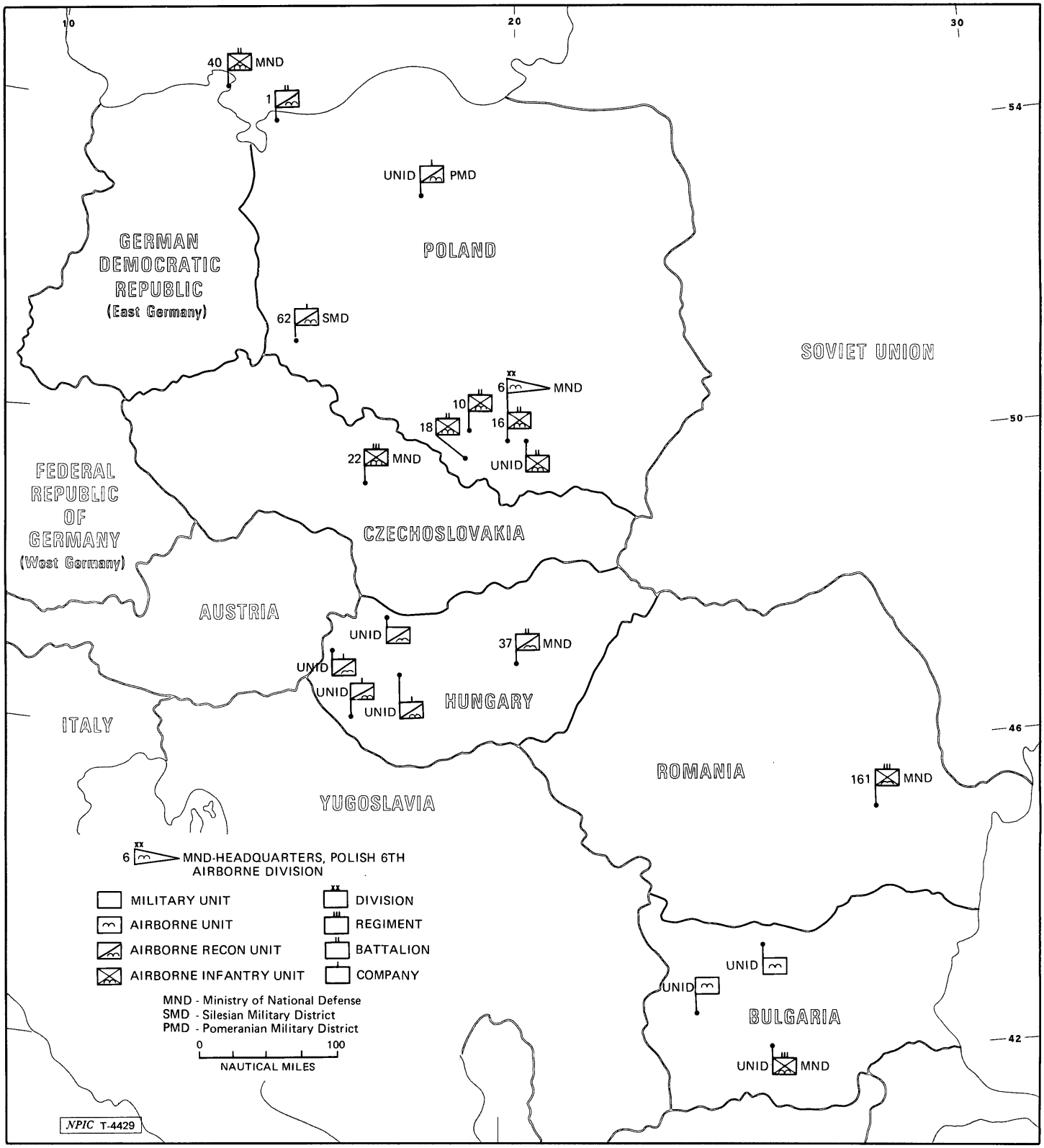

FIGURE 1. LOCATIONS OF NSWP SPF UNITS

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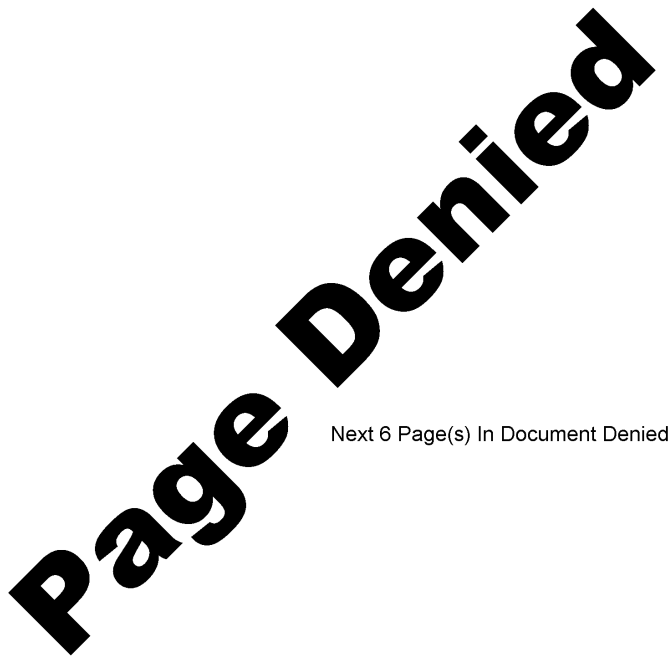

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(S/WN) All applicable satellite imagery acquired from [redacted] was used in the preparation of this report. 25X1

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(S) Comments and queries regarding this report are welcome. They may be directed to [redacted] 25X1
Warsaw Pact Forces Division, Imagery Exploitation Group, NPIC, [redacted] 25X1

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